

3.

¶ Here begynneth a shorte treatyse of contempla-
cyon taught by our lord Ihesu cryste/or taken out
of the boke of Margerie kempe of lyn.

She desyred many tymes that her be-
de myght be smyten of with an axe
vpon a blocke for the loue of our lord
de Ihesu. Thenne sayd our lord
Ihesu in her mynde. I thanke the
doughter that thou woldest dye for
my loue/for as often as thou thynkest so thou shalt
staue the same mede in heuen/as yf thou suffrest
the same dethe/& yet there shall no man slee the.
¶ I assure þ in thy mynde/yf it were possyble me
to suffre payne ageyne/as I haue done afore/me
were leuer to suffre as moche payne as euer I dyde
for thy soule alone/ rather than thou sholdest de-
parte fro me everlastyng.

¶ Doughter thou mayst no better please god than
to thynke continually in his loue. Than she asked
our lord Ihesu cryste/how she sholde best loue him

¶ And our lord sayd/haue mynde of thy wycked-
nes and thynke on my goodnes.

¶ Doughter yf thou were the haberyon/or þ here
fastyng brede & water/& yf þ saydeste euery day
a thousande pater n̄r.thou sholde not please me so
well as thou dost whan þ art in scylence/& suffrest
me to speke in thy soule

¶ Doughter for to byd many bedes/it is good to

them that cannot better do / & yet it is not profyte.
But it is a good way toward perfection. For I
tell the daughter / they that be grete fasters / & grete
doers of penaunce. they wolde that it shold be holde
the beste lyf / And they that gyue them to many de
uocions / they wolde haue that þ best lyfe. And tho
that gyuen moche almesse / they wolde that it were
holden the best lyfe. And I haue often tolde þ dou
ghter / that thynkþge / wepyng / & hye cōtemplacy
on is þ best lyf in erthe / & thou shalt haue more me
ryte in heuen for one yere thynkynge in thy mynde
than for an hondred yere of prayeng w thy mouth
& yet thou wylte not beleue me. for thou wylte byd
many bedes.

¶ Daughter yf thou knewe how swete thy loue is
to me / þ woldest neuer do other thþge but loue me
with all thy herte.

¶ Dought yf thou wylt be hye w me in heuen ke
pe me alway in thy mynde as moche as þ mayst &
forgete not me at thy mete / but thynke alway þ I
fyt in thy herte & knowe euery thought þ is therein
both good and badde.

¶ Daughter I haue suffred many paynes for thy
loue / therfore þ hast gret cause to loue me ryght wel
for I haue bought thy loue full dere.

¶ Dere lord I praye the late me neuer haue ocher
joye in erth but mournynge & wepyng for thy lo
ue / for me thynketh lord / though I were in hel / yf
I myght wepe there & mourne for thy loue as I do

here/hell sholde not noye me/but it sholde be a ma
ner heuen/for thy loue putteth away al maner of
drede of our gostly enemye/for I had leuer be the
re as longe as þy woldest & please the/than to be in
this worlde & dysplease the/therfore good lord as
thou wylt so mote it be.

¶ She had grete wonder that our lorde wolde beco
me man/& suffre so greuous paynes for her þy was
so vnkynde a creature to hym. And than w grete
wepyge she asked our lorde Ihu how she myghte
best please hy/& he answered to her leule saynge
doughter haue mynde of thy wyckednes & thynke
on my goodnes/than she prayed many tymes & of
ten thes e wordes. Lorde for thy goodnes haue merci
on my grete wyckednes/as certeynly as I was ne
uer so wycked as þy arte good ne neuer may be thou
ghe I wolde.for þy arte so good þy þy mayst no better
be & therfore it is grete wonder þy euer ony man shol
de be departed fro the without ende.

¶ Whan she sawe the crucefyrre/ or yf she sawe a
man had a wounde or a best. Or yf a man bete a chil
de afore her/or lmore an hors/or an other best w
a whype/yf she myghte se it or here it. she thought
she sawe our lorde beten or wounded lyke as she sa
we in the man or in the best.

¶ The more she encreased in loue & in deuocyon/
the more she encreased in sorowe & contricyon /in
lownesse & mekenesse/& in holy drede of our lorde
Ihesu & in knowlege of her owne frepette. So that

yf she sawe any creature be punysshed/or sharpely
chastyled/she wolde thynke that she had ben more
worthy to be chastyled than þ creature was for her
vnyndnes ayenst god. Than wolde she wepe for
her owne synne. & for compassyon of that creature.
¶ In noo thyng that þ doost or sayest daughter þ
mayst noo better please god/than beleue that he lo-
ueth the. for yf it were possyble þ I myght wepe wth
the. I wolde wepe with the for the compassyon þ I
haue of the.

¶ Our mercyfull lorde Ihesu cryste drewe this cre-
ture vnto his loue/& to the mynde of his passyon/
that myght not endure to beholde a lepre/or an o-
ther leke man/speccally yf he had any woundes ap-
perynge on hym. Soo she wepte as yf she had seen
our lorde Ihesu with his woundes bled þge:& so she
dyde in the syght of the soule/for thrugh the behol-
dyng of the leke man/her mynde was all rauyl-
shed in to our lorde Ihesu/that she had grete mour-
nyng and sorowþge þ she myght not kysse þ lepre
whan she met them in the way for the loue of our
lorde whiche was all contrayre to her desposcyon
in the yeres of her youthe & prosperyte/for than she
abhorred them moost.

¶ Doughter þ haste desyred in thy mynde to haue
many preestes in the towne of lyn/that myght sy-
ge & rede nyght and day for to serue me/worshyp
me/& prayse me/and thanke me for the goodnes þ
I haue do to the in erth/& therfore doughter I pro

myse the thou shalt haue mede & rewarde in heuen
for the good wylles & good desyres/as yf thou had
dest done them in dede.

Doughter yf shalte haue as grete mede & as gre
te rewarde with me in heuen. for thy good letyng &
thy good dedes that thou haste do in thy mynde as
yf thou haddest do yf same with thy bodely wyttes
without forth.

And daughter I thanke the for the charyte that
thou haste to all lecherous men & wyemen/for thou
prayest for them & wepest for them many a tere de
syrnyng yf it sholde delyuer them out of synne/& be
as gracypous to them as I was to Mary maudcley
ne/yf they myght haue as moche grace to loue me
as Mary maudeleyne had/& with this condycōn yf
woldest yf eueryche of them sholde haue .xx.li. a ye
re to loue & prayse me/& daughter this grete chary
te whiche yf hast to them in thy prayer pleasech me
ryght well/And daughter also I thanke the for yf
charyte whiche yf hast in thy prayer whan yf prayest
for all Jewes & sarasyns/& al hethen people yf they
sholde come to crysten fayth/yf my name myght be
magnifyed in them furthermore daughter I chan
ke the for general charyte yf yf hast to al people that
be now in this worlde/& to al tho that. are to come
vnto the worldes ende/yf thou woldest be hacked as
smalle as flethe to the potte for theyr loue/soo yf I
wolde by thy dech saue them all fro dampnacōn yf
it pleased me. And therfore daughter / for all these

good wylles and desyres thou shalt haue ful mede
& rewarde in heuen byleue it ryght wel & doute ne
uer a dele.

¶ She sayd good lord I wolde be layde naked vpon
an hurdel for thy loue al men to wonder on me
& to cast fylth & dyrt on me: & be drawen fro town
to towne euery day my lyfe tyme yf þ were pleased
therby/ & no mānes soule byndred/ thy wyl be ful
fylled and not myne.

¶ Doughters as oftentymes as þ sayest or thykest
worshypped be all the holy places in Iherusalem
where cryst suffre bytter payne & passyon in thou
shalt haue haue the same pardon as yf þ were in
thy bodely presence/ both to thy selfe & to al tho þ
thou wylt gyue to.

¶ The same pardon þ was graūted the afore tyme
me. it was confermed on saynt Nicolas daye/ þ is
to say/ playne remysyon/ & it is not only graūted
to þ/ but also to all tho þ beleue/ & to all tho þ shall
beleue vnto the worldes ende/ that god loneth þ/ &
shall thanke god for the yf they wyl forsake theyr
synne/ & be in full wyl no more to tourne agayne
thereto. But be sorre & heuy for þ they haue done &
wyl do due penaunce therfore/ they shall haue the
same pardon þ is graūted to thy selfe. & þ is all þ
pardon þ is in Ierlm/ as was graūted þ whan þ
were at Rafnys.

¶ That day that she suffred noo trybulacyon for
oure lordes sake she was not merp ne gladdc/ as

that daye whan she suffred trybulacyon.

Pacyence is more worthe than myracles doyng

Doughter it is more plesure to me þ thou suffre
despytes/scornes/shames/& repreues/wrōges/dyl
eases/than yf thyne hede were stryken thre tymes
a daye euery daye in leuen yere.

Lorde for thy grete payne haue mercy on my ly
tell payne.

Whan she was in grete trouble/our lorde sayd/
doughter I must nedes comforte þ. for now þ hast
þ ryght way to heuen/ By this way came I & all
my dylcyples/for now þ shalt know þ better what
sorowe & shame I suffred for thy loue/ & þ shalt
haue the more compassyon whan thou thynkest on
my passyon.

O my dere worthy lorde: these graces þ sholdest
shewe to relygyous men & to prestes.

Our lorde sayd to her ayen/nay nay doughter/
for þ I loue best þ they loue not/& þ is shames/res
preues/scornes/& despytes of þ people/& therfore
they shall not haue this grace/for doughter be that
dredeth þ shames of this worlde may not parfyghe
ly loue god.

Here endeth a thorte treatyse called Margerie
kempede Ep̃. Enprynted in fletestrete by Wyn
kyn de worde.





